IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a current listing of claims and will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

1-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

receiving a succession of electronic documents into a document management system, wherein each of the succession of electronic documents is received at a corresponding point in time; and

for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents:

generating a unique time-based identifier corresponding to the point in time at which the electronic document was received; ~~and~~

storing the electronic document in a storage system at a storage location corresponding to the unique time-based identifier for the electronic document; <u>and</u>

<u>storing a record associated with the electronic document in the storage system, wherein the record contains information indicating the physical location of an original physical document corresponding to the electronic document;</u>

wherein the electronic document is retrievable from the storage system using its unique time-based identifier.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said receiving includes receiving a first electronic document at a first point in time corresponding to a first date and a first time of day within the first date, wherein the unique time-based identifier of the first electronic document corresponds to the first date and the first time of day.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the first point in time corresponds to a time when the first electronic document was created by imaging a physical document.

27.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the first time of day is specified by at least an hour value, a minutes value, and a seconds value.

28.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said receiving includes:
        receiving imaged electronic documents; and/or
        receiving computer generated electronic documents.

29.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the imaged electronic documents include electronic documents that were created by imaging corresponding physical documents, wherein each corresponding physical document is marked with the corresponding unique time-based identifier after said imaging.

30.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the computer generated electronic documents include electronic documents received from one or more of the following sources: word processing programs, graphics programs, e-mail, facsimile transmissions.

31-32. (Canceled)

33.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising:
        accessing a first electronic document stored in the storage system using a first unique time-based identifier, wherein the first unique time-based identifier corresponds to a first point in time when the first electronic document was received into the document management system.

34.   (Canceled)

35.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising:
        generating a record for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents, wherein each record includes a plurality of attributes for the corresponding electronic document.

36.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, further comprising:

for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents, updating one or more tables in a database to include references to the corresponding generated record.

37.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein each of the tables is searchable using one or more attributes.

38-40. (Canceled)

41.   (Currently Amended) A document management system comprising:

an input unit configured to receive a succession of electronic documents, wherein each of the succession of electronic documents is received at a corresponding point in time;

a storage subsystem coupled to the input unit and configured to store the succession of electronic documents using corresponding unique time-based identifiers;

a computer system coupled to both the input unit and the storage subsystem, wherein the computer system is configured, for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents, to:

        generate a unique time-based identifier corresponding to the point in time at which the electronic document was received into the document management system;, and to

        use the unique time-based identifier to store the electronic document in the storage subsystem; and

        store a record associated with the electronic document in the storage subsystem, wherein the record contains information indicating the physical location of an original physical document corresponding to the electronic document;

wherein the succession of electronic documents is retrievable from the storage system using corresponding unique time-based identifiers.

42.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the input unit is configured to receive a first electronic document at a first point in time corresponding to a first date and a first time of day within the first date, wherein the computer system is configured to generate a unique time-based identifier for the first electronic document that corresponds to the first date and the first time of day.

43.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 42, wherein the first time of day is specified by at least an hour value, a minutes value, and a seconds value.

44.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 42, wherein the first electronic document originated from a first physical document converted into the first electronic document.

45.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 42, wherein the first electronic document originated from an electronic document provided as input to the document management system.

46-47. (Canceled)

48.	(Currently Amended) A document management system, comprising:

first means for receiving a succession of electronic documents into a document management system, wherein each of the succession of electronic documents is received at a corresponding point in time;

second means for generating a unique time-based identifier for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents, wherein the time-based identifier for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents corresponds to a point in time at which the corresponding electronic document was received, wherein the second means is coupled to the first means; ~~and~~

third means for storing each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents using the corresponding time-based identifier, wherein the third means is coupled to the second means;

wherein the third means is configured to store, for each of the at least a subset of the received electronic documents, a record associated with that electronic document, wherein the record contains information indicating the physical location of an original physical document corresponding to that electronic document; and

wherein one or more of the stored electronic documents are retrievable using their corresponding time-based identifiers.

49.	(Previously Presented) The document management system of claim 48, wherein a unique time-based identifier for a given one of the succession of electronic documents corresponds to a date and a time of day within that date that the given electronic document was received into the document management system.

50.	(Previously Presented) The document management system of claim 48, wherein the succession of electronic documents includes one or more documents, each of which is converted from a corresponding first physical document.

51.	(Previously Presented) The document management system of claim 48, wherein the succession of electronic documents includes one or more documents, each of which corresponds to an electronic document provided as input to the document management system.

52.   (Previously Presented) The document management system of claim 48, further comprising:

   fourth means for generating a record for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents;

   wherein each record includes a plurality of attributes for the corresponding electronic document.

53.   (Previously Presented) The document management system of claim 52, further comprising:

   fifth means for updating, for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents, one or more tables in a database to include references to the corresponding generated record.

54.   (Previously Presented) The document management system of claim 53, wherein each of the tables is searchable using one or more attributes.

55.   (Canceled)

56.   (Currently Amended) A tangible computer readable memory medium storing program instructions that are computer executable to:

receive a succession of electronic documents into a document management system, wherein each of the succession of electronic documents is received at a corresponding point in time;

generate a unique time-based identifier for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents, wherein each unique time-based identifier corresponds to the point in time at which the corresponding electronic document was received; ~~and~~

store each of at least a subset of the electronic documents in a storage system at a corresponding storage location corresponding to the unique time-based identifier for that electronic document; <u>and</u>

<u>store, for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents, a record associated with that electronic document, wherein the record contains information indicating the physical location of an original physical document corresponding to that electronic document;</u>

wherein each of at least a subset of the stored electronic documents is retrievable from the storage system using its corresponding unique time-based identifier.

57.   (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable memory medium of claim 56, wherein a unique time-based identifier for a first electronic document corresponds to a first-date and a first time of day at which the first electronic document was received into the document management system.

58.   (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable memory medium of claim 57, wherein the first electronic document corresponds to a first physical document converted into the first electronic document.

59.   (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable memory medium of claim 57, wherein the first electronic document originated from an electronic document provided as input to the document management system.

60.   (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable memory medium of claim 57, wherein the first time of day is specified at least by an hour value, a minutes value, and a seconds value.

61.   (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable memory medium of claim 57, wherein the program instructions are further executable to:

generate a record for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents, wherein each record includes a plurality of attributes for the corresponding electronic document.

62.   (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable memory medium of claim 61, wherein the program instructions are further executable to:

for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents, update one or more tables in a database to include references to the corresponding generated record.

63.   (Previously Presented) The tangible computer readable memory medium of claim 62, wherein each of the tables is searchable using one or more attributes.

64.   (Canceled)

65.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the received electronic documents include imaged electronic documents, and wherein said retrieving the electronic document from the storage system includes presenting its unique time-based identifier to the storage system.

66.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41,

wherein the succession of electronic documents includes imaged electronic documents, and wherein a given one of the succession of electronic documents is retrievable from the storage system by presenting its unique time-based identifier to the storage system.

67.   (Previously Presented) The document management system of claim 48,

wherein the succession of electronic documents includes imaged electronic documents; and

wherein a given stored electronic document is retrievable from the third means by presenting its unique time-based identifier to the third means.

68.   (Previously Presented) The tangible computer memory medium of claim 56, wherein the succession of electronic documents includes imaged electronic documents, and wherein a given electronic document stored in the storage system is retrievable by presenting its unique time-based identifier to the storage system.

69.   (New) The method of claim 24, wherein for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents, the stored associated record for that document contains at least a first attribute indicating a physical type of the corresponding original physical document and a second attribute indicating an input type associated with a method of creation for that electronic document.

70.   (New) The document management system of claim 41, wherein the computer system is further configured to, for each of the at least a subset of the received electronic documents, store in the record associated with that document a first attribute and a second attribute;

wherein the first attribute indicates a physical type of the corresponding original physical document; and

wherein the second attribute indicates an input type associated with a method of creation for that electronic document.

71. (New) The document management system of claim 48, wherein the fourth means include means for storing at least first and second attributes in the record associated with each of the at least a subset of the received electronic documents;

wherein the first attribute indicates a physical type of the corresponding original physical document; and

wherein the second attribute indicates an input type associated with a method of creation for that electronic document.

72. (New) The computer readable memory medium of claim 56, wherein the record associated with each of the at least a subset of the received electronic documents contains at least a first attribute and a second attribute;

wherein the first attribute indicates a physical type of the corresponding original physical document; and

wherein the second attribute indicates an input type associated with a method of creation for that electronic document.

73.   (New) A document management system comprising:

an input unit configured to receive a succession of electronic documents, wherein each of the succession of electronic documents is received at a corresponding point in time;

a storage subsystem coupled to the input unit and configured to store the succession of electronic documents;

a computer system coupled to both the input unit and the storage subsystem, wherein the computer system is configured, for each of at least a subset of the received electronic documents, to:

> generate a first unique identifier that corresponds to the point in time at which the electronic document was received into the document management system;

> generate a second unique identifier that specifies an entity associated with the electronic document and a file number for the specified entity; and

> store the electronic document and its first and second unique identifiers in the storage subsystem;

wherein the first and second unique identifiers for a given one of the succession of electronic documents are each usable to access the given electronic document from the storage subsystem.

74.   (New) The document management system of claim 73, wherein the first and second unique identifiers are stored in a relational database accessible by the computer system.